



Land and Water Management Division

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Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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INFORMATION

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Dam Safety Program
517-335-3195

Flood Hazard Management
Program
517-335-3183

Hydrologic Data Collection &
Analysis Program
517-335-3195

Land/Water Interface Permits
517-373-9244

National Flood Insurance
Program
517-335-3195

Shorelands Protection and
Management Program
517-373-1746

Transportation Review
517-335-3183

Wetlands and Submerged
Lands Program
517-373-1746

DEQ Internet Home Page:
www.michigan.gov/deqlwmd

Environmental Assistance
Center:
800-662-9278

Pollution Emergencies:
800-292-4706

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The Land and Water Management Division (LWMD) administers or plays an important role in approximately 23 planning and environmental protection programs. The goal of many of the programs is promoting appropriate use and protection of land and water resources in conjunction with the increasing social and economic needs of the state. The LWMD programs range from financial and technical assistance to preservation and regulatory environmental protection programs and consist of the following:

[Dam Safety Program](#)

Staff engineers conduct technical reviews and regulate the construction or dismantling of dams through a permit system. Emergency action plans and dam safety inspection reports submitted by dam owners are reviewed. A statewide inventory of dams is maintained, and the staff engineers inspect and prepare dam safety inspection reports for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and municipally owned dams to evaluate the integrity and safety of the structures.

[Flood Hazard Management Program](#)

Program staff review proposals to occupy, fill, or grade lands within the state's floodplains. These activities are regulated by a permit system with the purpose of ensuring that the channels and floodways are kept clear and uninhabited and that structures placed outside the floodway are properly protected from flood damage.

[Great Lakes Submerged Lands Program](#)

The Great Lakes Submerged Lands Program regulates certain activities on the Great Lakes bottomlands such as marina construction, dredging, filling, and placement of shoreline protection structures. The program provides for the sale, lease, or exchange of state-owned bottomlands and the designation of underwater preserves to protect cultural resources such as shipwrecks. Staff review proposals for underwater salvage operations in coordination with the Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries.

[Hydrologic Data Collection and Analysis Program](#)

The Hydrologic Studies Unit collects, evaluates, and analyzes hydrologic data to provide technical support to DEQ programs. This technical assistance includes flood discharge estimates, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, drought flow estimates, stream gauging, storm water management, and evaluation of drain projects.

[Inland Lakes and Streams Protection Program](#)

The Inland Lakes and Streams Protection Program protects the natural resources at the land/water interface, riparian rights, and the public trust in the inland waters of the state. Staff provide for the protection of the above interest areas through a permit application review process. If an application can be approved, then a permit is issued containing conditions that regulate the construction activities to minimize the adverse impacts. Regulated activities include structure placement or removal, dredging, filling below the ordinary high water mark, and operating or constructing a marina.

[National Flood Insurance Program](#)

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator works with local units of government to assist them in meeting the NFIP requirements. This is carried out through a program of education, technical assistance, and oversight. In addition, assistance is provided to lenders, realtors, and insurance agents, as well as private citizens, who have questions about flood insurance or floodplain management.

Sand Dune Protection Program

Michigan's most unique and fragile sand dunes are protected by minimizing the impacts of development within designated critical dune areas along the Great Lakes shoreline. Earth moving, vegetation removal, and construction activities within a critical dune area are regulated through a permit program.

Shorelands Protection and Management Program

This program provides for designation and proper management of environmental areas (such as coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands that provide habitat for fish and wildlife), high risk erosion areas, and flood risk areas along the Great Lakes shoreline. Permits are required for construction activities within these designated areas.

Transportation Review

Permit applications are reviewed for new or replacement bridge projects being proposed by public transportation agencies which include the Michigan Department of Transportation, county road commissions, and municipalities. The objective of this review is to provide safe and convenient highways while avoiding or minimizing the potential impacts to our natural resources.

Wetlands Protection Program

The Wetland Protection Program staff develop educational and training materials and work on program aspects with statewide significance, such as the statewide wetlands inventory. Wetland protection regulations are administered through a permit system.

Where To Go For Assistance

The LWMD staff located in field offices administer the regulatory aspects of several of the programs described above; respond to complaints; conduct compliance activities; issue many of the LWMD permits; and provide local contact points with regulated industries, local government, and citizens. Field staff are located throughout the state:

Cadillac District Office	231-775-3960	Lansing District Office	517-373-7055
Gaylord Field Office	989-731-4920	Saginaw Bay District Office	989-686-8025
Grand Rapids District Office	616-356-0500	Southeast Michigan District Office	586-753-3700
Jackson District Office	517-780-7690	Upper Peninsula District Office	906-346-8300
Kalamazoo District Office	269-567-3500	Crystal Falls Field Office	906-875-2071

Various publications and copies of the laws and rules for the programs identified above are available by contacting the division at 517-373-1170 or can be downloaded from our website at www.michigan.gov/deqlwmd.